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GHOST RIDER™
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HINT: THE INCREDIBLE HULK PREFERS THE LATTER... AND HE IS GOING TO MAKE SURE!
IT'S THE DEADLIEST CYCLE RACE OF ALL TIME! JOIN THE DESOLATION RUN.. IF YOU DARE!!
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CHARLES ATLAS, World's No. 1 Body Builder, says:

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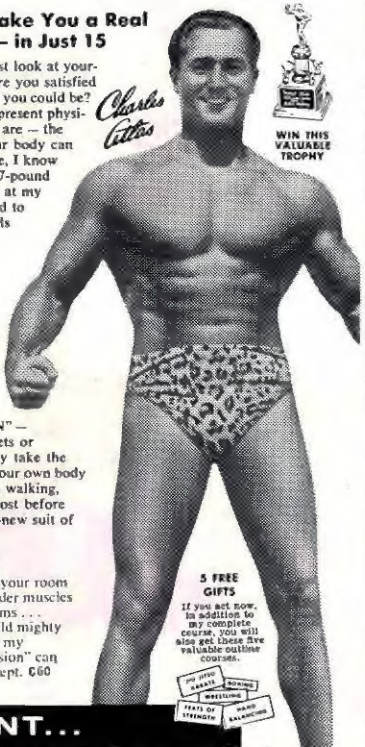

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THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH YOUR FACE — ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT CRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
OHHH IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY, ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL IT'S MY TURN THIS TIME!
WHAM! — NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER!™

TONY ISABELLA Writer ★ SAL BUSCEMA Artist ★ JOHN TARTAG and GEORGE ROUSSOS Embellishers ★ PHIL RACHE, colorist JOE ROSEN, Letterer ★ LEN WEIN Editor

THE DESOLATION RUN!

GUEST STARRING: AW, YOU SAW THE COVER--WE DON'T HAVE TO ELABORATE ON THAT! JUST HANG TIGHT, BECAUSE THIS ISSUE IS GOING TO BE MOVING PRETTY FAST IN JUST A FEW PAGES!

...IS MORE THAN JUST A RACE. IT'S A CHALLENGE TO BOTH MAN AND MOTORCYCLE TO SURVIVE THE RIGORS OF A COURSE THAT WILL TAKE THEM INTO THE MOST DESOLATE DESERT AREA IN THE UNITED STATES!

DESERT MARATHON SURVIVAL RACE

THE CYCLISTS HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS INCREDIBLE CONTEST... MODERN-DAY KNIGHTS IN LEATHER ARMOR.

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AMONG THESE KNIGHTS ARE TERRY FAIRBANKS AND NORA JOYCE, FORMERLY THE WORLD'S FOREMOST STUNT-RIDING COUPLE.
HELLO, LITTLE MISS BLOOD-SUCKER.
SURPRISED YOUR LAWYERS LEFT ME WITH EVEN A SET OF WHEELS?
I JUST ASSUMED SOME LITTLE TRAMP GOT THEM FOR YOU.
OUR SPECTATORS ARE DOUBTLESS WONDERING WHAT EFFECT THEIR RECENT, STORMY DIVORCE WILL HAVE ON TODAY'S CONTEST.
SURE THEY WERE, BIG MOUTH.
NOW THAT YOU'VE SPREAD THEIR PERSONAL LIVES OVER THE AIR-WAVES!
PERHAPS MOST UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS RACE IS THAT THE MAN FUNDING IT, DOUGLAS FORESTER, IS RIDING IN IT. HE'S A MAN DETERMINED TO SEE THIS THROUGH--AT AN AGE WHEN MOST MEN ARE READY TO RETIRE!
"LIKE FIGHTIN' FOR MY SOUL AGAINST SATAN HIMSELF!"*
THE MOST COLORFUL CONTESTANT HERE TODAY IS JOHNNY BLAZE, THE FAMED GHOST RIDER, WHO HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM THE CYCLING SCENE SINCE HIS LAS VEGAS ROAD SHOW CLOSED A FEW WEEKS AGO.
YEAH? WELL, I GUESS I JUST GOT KINDA BUSY TAKIN' CARE OF SOME PERSONAL BUSINESS.
*ISSUES #8 AND #9 --LEN.

FIVE FEAR-FRAUGHT FEATURES OF THE BLOOD-SUCKER'S KITH AND KIN IN VAMPIRE TALES #8!

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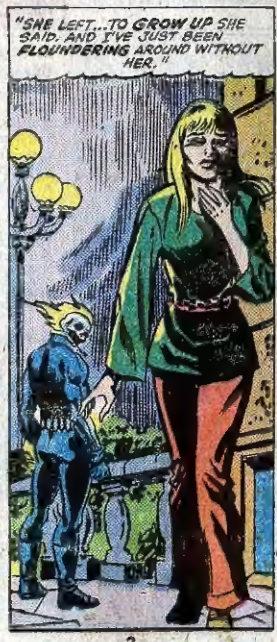
"SATAN HAD ME. HE HAD TRICKED ROXANNE SIMPSON INTO RENOUNCING HER PROTECTION OF ME. HIS DEMON INFERNO WAS KILLING ME OFF SO THAT HIS BOSS COULD CLAIM MY SOUL.

"I DON'T KNOW WHY I WAS SAVED AND IF I EVER TOLD ANYBODY WHO I THOUGHT THAT GUY WAS I THINK I'D BE LOCKED UP. BUT I KNEW I'D BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE FOR A REASON... A REASON I WANTED TO FIND.
"ONE PROBLEM: ROCKY COULDN'T STOP BLAMING HERSELF FOR BEING TRICKED BY SATAN.



IF THE STUNT-MASTER HADN'T TOLD ME THAT I COULD TAKE HIS PLACE IN THIS RACE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D BE DOING. *
HI, I'M DRIFTWOOD-- LEMUEL DRIFTWOOD. THERE'S A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE RACE STARTS AND I THOUGHT WE COULD... KINDA TALK FOR A WHILE?
OH BROTHER.
*JOHNNY MET STUNT-MASTER IN ISH #8 --LEN.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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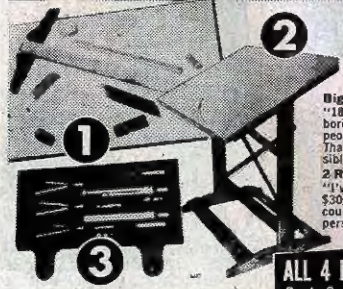

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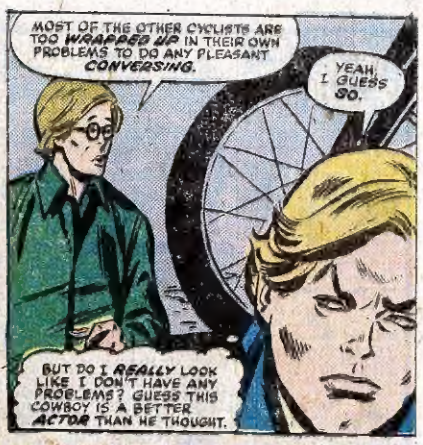
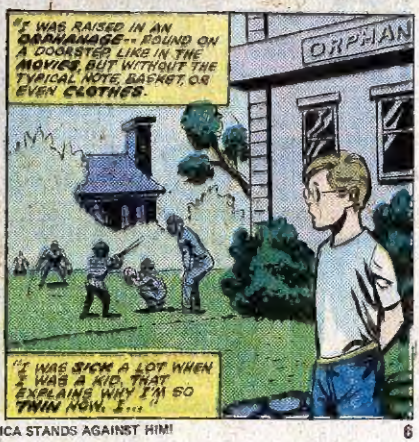
TAKE THE FAIRBANKS COUPLE, FOR EXAMPLE. THEY HATE EACH OTHER SO MUCH THAT THEY GOT DIVORCED. BUT WHEREVER ONE OF THEM PERFORMS, YOU CAN BET THE OTHER'LL BE THERE, TOO!
FIGURE THAT.


MOST OF THE OTHER CYCLISTS ARE TOO WRAPPED UP IN THEIR OWN PROBLEMS TO DO ANY PLEASANT CONVERSING.
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
BUT DO I REALLY LOOK LIKE I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS? GUESS THIS COWBOY IS A BETTER ACTOR THAN HE THOUGHT.

"ON THE OTHER HAND" LEMUEL CONTINUES, "MR. FORESTER'S PRETTY EASY TO FIGURE OUT, EVEN IF I HADN'T BEEN WORKING FOR HIM FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS NOW.

"THEN ABOUT A YEAR AGO, THEY WERE COMING BACK FROM A VISIT TO NEW YORK. MR. FORESTER HAD STAYED BEHIND.
"HE SAW THEIR PLANE CRASH ON THE RUNWAY."

I THINK HE SPONSORED THIS MARATHON SO HE COULD KINDA RACE AWAY FROM THOSE MEMORIES. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY.
IF I'D EVER HAD A FAMILY, I'D WANT TO REMEMBER THEM NO MATTER WHAT.


"I WAS RAISED IN AN ORPHANAGE--RUN ON A DOORSTEP LIKE IN THE MOVIES, BUT WITHOUT THE TYPICAL NOTE, BASKET, OR EVEN CLOTHES.
ORPHAN
"I WAS SICK A LOT WHEN I WAS A KID, THAT EXPLAINS WHY I'M SO TWIN NOW. I..."

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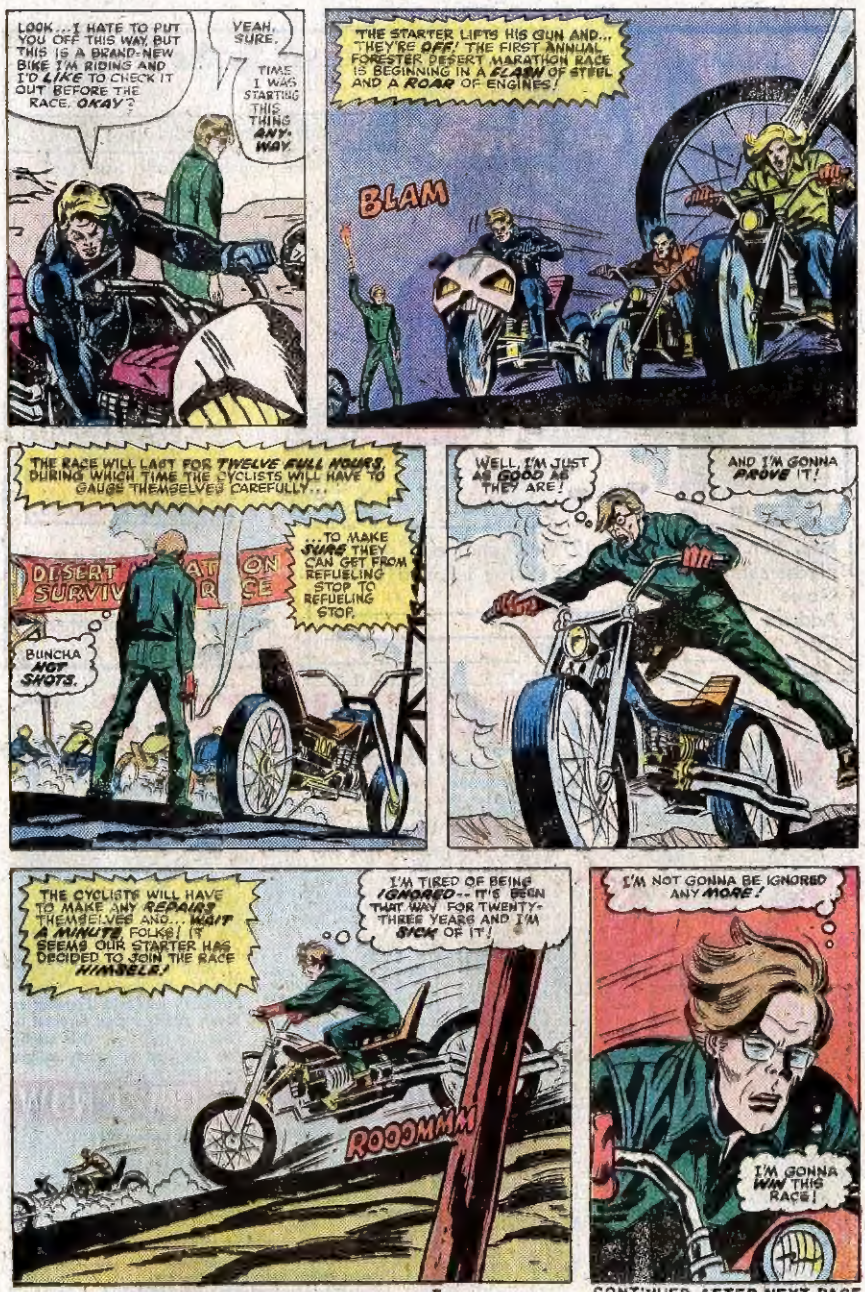
LOOK... I HATE TO PUT YOU OFF THIS WAY, BUT THIS IS A BRAND-NEW BIKE I'M RIDING AND I'D LIKE TO CHECK IT OUT BEFORE THE RACE. OKAY?
YEAH, SURE.
TIME I WAS STARTING THIS THING ANYWAY.
THE STARTER LIFTS HIS GUN AND... THEY'RE OFF! THE FIRST ANNUAL FORESTER DESERT MARATHON RACE IS BEGINNING IN A CLASH OF STEEL AND A ROAR OF ENGINES!
BLAM
THE RACE WILL LAST FOR TWELVE FULL HOURS, DURING WHICH TIME THE CYCLISTS WILL HAVE TO GAUGE THEMSELVES CAREFULLY...
...TO MAKE SURE THEY CAN GET FROM REFUELING STOP TO REFUELING STOP.
BUNCHA NOT SHOTS.
WELL, I'M JUST AS GOOD AS THEY ARE!
AND I'M GONNA PROVE IT!
THE CYCLISTS WILL HAVE TO MAKE ANY REPAIRS THEMSELVES AND... WAIT A MINUTE, FOLKS! IT SEEMS OUR STARTER HAS DECIDED TO JOIN THE RACE HIMSELF!
I'M TIRED OF BEING IGNORED -- IT'S BEEN THAT WAY FOR TWENTY-THREE YEARS AND I'M SICK OF IT!
ROOOMMM
I'M NOT GONNA BE IGNORED ANY MORE!
I'M GONNA WIN THIS RACE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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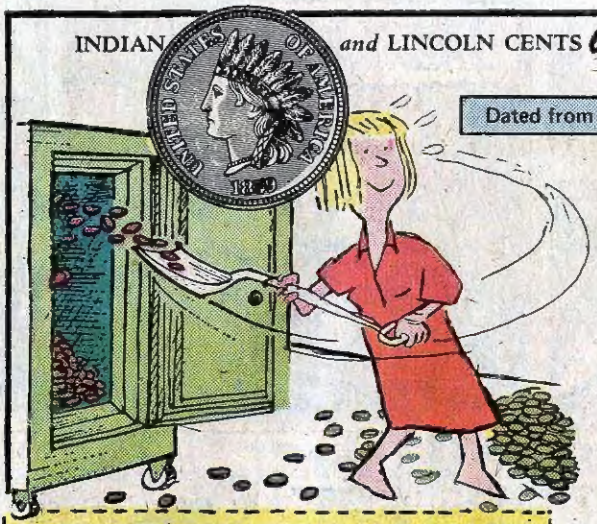

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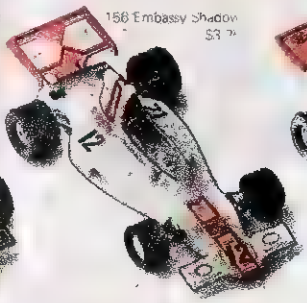

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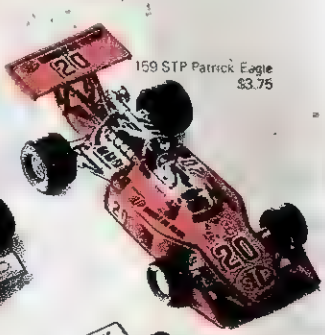

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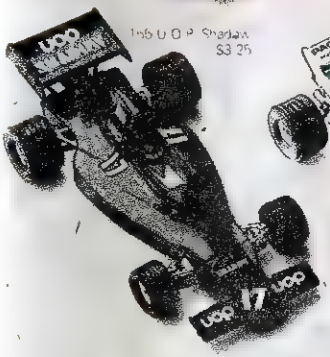

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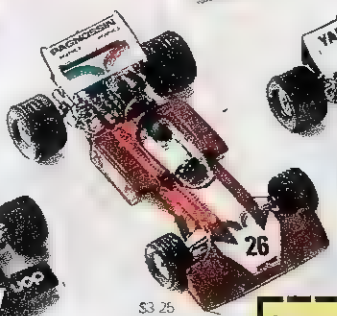

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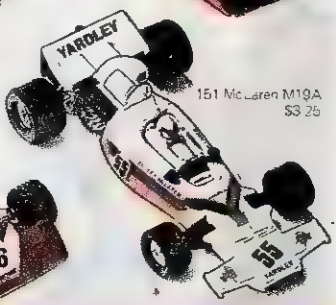

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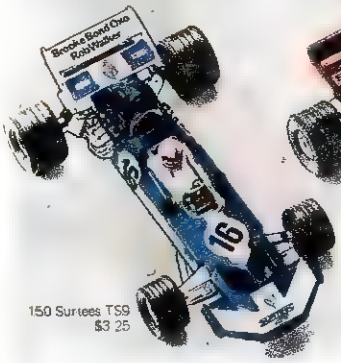

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SO THIS IS THE PURSUIT JOHNNY BLAZE WOULD FOLLOW INSTEAD OF SERVING THE CAUSE OF SATAN!
"THE MASTER WAS INDEED WISE TO GIVE ME THIS ABILITY TO ASSUME HUMAN AND SET ME ON THE MORTAL'S TRAIL."
"LAST ISSUE (#)"
"AM IN THE FORM I SO SUBTLY WOOED THE WIFE OF THIS MORTAL'S SOUL FOR SATAN'S
EVEN WHILE THE HOST OF THESE HUMAN CATTLE WATCH THE RACERS DISAPPEAR INTO THE DESERT, I CAN TRANSPORT MYSELF--
"...TO WHERE MY CHOSEN PAWN FOR TODAY'S DEVILTRY NOW STALKS
TO THE LUMBERING BARELY-INTELLIGENT, YET INDESCRIBABLY POWERFUL MAN-BRUTE THE WORLD CALLS--"
"...THE HULK!
NOTE FOR CONTINUITY FREAKS THE AWESOME EVENTS YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS OCCUR BETWEEN PANEL 6, PANEL 2, OF HULK #181 AND PAGE 19, PANEL 3, OF THAT SAME ISSUE! SO THERE! -- LEN & TONY
"BANANA OIL!-- HERB TRIMPE & SAL BUSCEMA."
ONLY MARVEL WOULD BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO VISIT CHINESE TOWN!
20

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FEAR IS A WHIP IN MY HANDS. I CAN USE IT TO SET EVEN THE HULK TO DO MY BIDDING
HOWEVER, THE HULK IS NOT ESPECIALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE FEAR-MONGER'S POWER
AND WHEN A THUNDERBOLT OF FLAME STRIKES AT HIS UNGUARDED BACK HIS FIRST REACTION IS...
...ANGER!
HUH? WHO ATTACKS HULK?
SKULL-FACE RACES AT HULK HULK HAS NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE!
HULK WILL SMASH ANYWAY!
YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT, YOU BRAINLESS TROGLODYTE. YOU'LL ONLY--
--DIE!
THE IMAGE IS THAT OF THE GHOST RIDER...
...BUT THE WORDS ARE INFERNO'S.
AND THE FLAMES ARE SO MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY THE HULK HAS KNOWN BEFORE.
AARROOHH!
THEY BURN AWAY LAYERS OF COURAGE!
LEAVING RAW EXPOSED FEAR!
HULK HAS NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE. HULK CAN'T RAISE ARMS TO SMASH UNLESS FLAMES GO AWAY...
--HULK WILL DIE!

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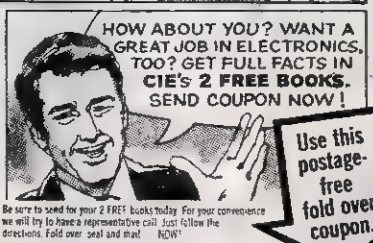

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BUT OL' JADE-JAWS IS
FLAMES ARE... GONE?
THINK HULK WAS ALREADY DEAD?
BUT HULK IS NOT DEAD
ALIVE
AND HULK IS ANGRY!
YOU WILL END YOU
AND THEN HULK WILL CRUSH YOU!
YOU'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING
PLANTED
WHEN THE HULK ATTACKS
FLEE
THE OTHERS TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE.
THE HULK WILL PROBABLY KILL BLAZE AND SINCE THE MORTAL
AN EVIL ACT, SATAN WILL THEN BE ABLE TO CLAIM HIS SOUL!
AND EVEN IF THIS PLAN FAILS, I CAN TRY AGAIN AND AGAIN, AD INFINITUM.
THIS IS SOME WEIRD CONTEST
NOBODY'S TRYING TO OUTDISTANCE ANYBODY. IT'S
ENDURANCE
RA-RAAAAR
THEY'RE PLAYING IT LIKE A MOTORIZED SHOOT-OUT!
HEY, WATCH IT, LADY! YOU TRYING TO KILL US BOTH?
WATCH IT YOURSELF, MISTER. IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT, GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN!

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IF THEY KEEP THAT UP NEITHER OF THEM WILL EVER SEE THE FINISH LINE.
MAYBE THEY'RE THE LUCKY ONES THEN... THE FINISH LINE IS THE ONLY THING I'VE GOT TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
HEY, LOOK WHO WANTS TO PLAY WITH THE BIG KIDS.
"IT'S THAT SKINNY GEEK OF A STARTER. HE RIDES THAT THING LIKE HE DOESN'T KNOW THE THROTTLE FROM HIS BEHIND."
MR. FORESTER WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT MOTHER OF PEARL! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO BLAZE?!
BLAST! I WASN'T THINKING! DIDN'T STOP TO REALIZE THAT MOST OF THIS RACE--
--TAKES PLACE AT NIGHT!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOME QUICK TALKING. DOUGLAS FORESTER IS NO CYCLE BUM. HE'LL WANT AN EXPLANATION.
MR. FORESTER...I KNOW THE CHANGE I'VE JUST UNDERGONE MAY SEEM A LITTLE STRANGE, BUT I...
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR GHOST ROUTINE, BLAZE. BUT IT WON'T WORK HERE. YOU CAN'T PSYCHE ME OR ANYBODY ELSE OUT OF WINNING THIS RACE.
I HOPE THAT MASK IS TIGHT YOUNG FELLA. SO YOU WON'T BE SWALLOWING TOO MUCH OF MY DUST!

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WHEW! USING SATAN'S CURSE IN MY ACT WAS THE BEST IDEA I EVER HAD IT MAKES EXPLAINING THIS BLAZING SKULL A M TE EASIER.
BUT THE GLOVES ARE OFF NOW IT'S TIME WE STARTED SHOWING OUR STUFF.
.. AND PARTNERS I'M STILL THE BEST!
VROOOMMMM!
FROM THE HEIGHTS, THEY LOOK LUDICROUS. SEVERAL CAREENING HUMANS SPREADING FROM POINT A TO POINT B
...AND NEVER OUT-RACING THEIR THOUGHTS.
WHAT'S THE POINT, COWBOY? ARE YOU IN THIS FOR THE PRIZE MONEY
OR JUST TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF ROCKY?
"RETIRE" DON'T THEY KNOW THAT'S EXACTLY WHEN YOU SHOULD MEET THINGS HEAD-ON
INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR THEM?
I'VE GOT TO WIN I GOT TO PROVE I'M WORTH SOMETHING
IF ONLY TO MYSELF!
SHE STILL HANDLES A BIKE REAL GOOD. I WONDER IF SHE EVER LEARNED HOW TO HANDLE A MAN.
I WONDER WHEN WE STARTED RACING AGAINST EACH OTHER INSTEAD OF TOGETHER.
I'VE GOT TO STOP THINKING ABOUT ROCKY. I KNOW WHY SHE LEFT AND SHE WAS WHOA!
SOMETHING'S COMIN' AT US FROM OUT OF THE SKY. SOMETHING...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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GHOST WRITERS!

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THE YELLOW BOX GAZETTE

We've got a few special announcements for you, ghosto-philes, and then we'll get into your comments on GHOST RIDER #8.

First off, we want to sincerely apologize for the reprint we had to toss at you last issue — after the cover portraying Johnny Blaze's battle with the Incredible Hulk had already not only gone to the printers, but had actually *been* printed. There were a lot of factors involved and we could try to explain them to you. But we won't. We fouled up. Pure and simple. Blew it. Period. We are sorry for any hassle any of you suffered as a result and, from Stan on down, we're going to do our level best to see that it just doesn't happen again.

Second, we want to thank a couple of heroic inkers for coming through for us in a pinch at a time when we needed them most and under conditions that would've driven lesser men to the brink of madness. So, take a bow, John Tartaglione and George Roussos — you're tops in our collective book!

Third, we want to thank Jim Mooney for all the fine work he has put into GHOST RIDER these past months. Jim's become so valuable as the Bullpen troubleshooter that he had to leave this title in order to be of a greater service to the entire line. It was a real pleasure for writer Tony Isabella to work with Jim and a real treat for the rest of us to view their dynamic collaborations. We're hoping the Isabella-Mooney-Blaze team can be reunited.

We were fortunate in gaining the services of a couple of outstanding artists to draw issues of this title while we were trying to decide on a permanent replacement for Madman Mooney. So, let's have a round of applause for Sal Buscema (this issue's guest penciler) and Frank Robbins (who will be lending his distinctive touch to Ghost Rider's escapades next issue). After that, Tony will be teaming up with George Tuska, the idol of IRON MAN fans and one of the best story-tellers in this crazy business.

Finally, a note for continuity-freaks. Chronologically, the Ghost Rider's recent adventures have occurred in the following order; GHOST RIDER #11, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #8, and GHOST RIDER #12 — we do like to keep these things straight, you know.

Okay, thanks for your patience. Let's get to some of those afore-mentioned letters.

Dear Marvel,

First: GHOST RIDER #8 was very good. Jim Mooney should be given credit (and perhaps even a raise) for his work on GHOST RIDER (also for all his work, period). The whole mag was beautiful, except (there's almost always one of those, hem) for his conception of the devil. Jim's version of Satan looks more like a cartoonist's (Sunday funnies) version, and I think it needs some work on it. The story wasn't anything to cheer about, but it was pretty good. Or maybe the best word for it would be average.

Second: I think you should make him (G.R.) more of a superhero and more a part of Marveldom. That is, you should have him tackle more super-villains (or more well-known villains) like Electro, Sandman, or even the Lizard (are they still alive?). The whole idea is to start a campaign to make GHOST RIDER more popular! Which brings me to:

Last: Is G.R. going to be discontinued? Because if he is, I WANT TO KNOW. The minute you think this mag is in trouble, TELL US, and maybe we can do something to stop it. In other words: don't let another mag go down the drain without trying to save it (like Sub-Mariner did), okay?

Scott Carrica
Deerfield Beach, FL

Marveldom Assembled is almost completely in favor of our presenting the Ghost Rider as more of a superhero and, since you unwavering keepers of the flame are the real editors of our comics, that's the way it's going to be!

Super-villains are definitely a part of Johnny Blaze's future adventures. While the Hulk and next issue's protagonist aren't actually villains per se, issue #12 will pit our motorcycling cherub against the Frightful Four's own Trapster! But this is the Trapster as you've never seen him before — armed with the most powerful weapons imaginable. It'll be a goodie!

As far as this mag being discontinued, fear not. GHOST RIDER has been doing better as of late, probably due to the more super-heroic treatment of the lead character. Our next goal, of course, is to get the sales up to the point where we can go monthly. So, if you have any friends that haven't been turned on to Mr. Blaze's deeds of derring-do, Scott, why not clue them in?

Dear Marvel,

GHOST RIDER #8 was great! The art, the story, the whole shebang (well, maybe not the editing)! Next to issues two and seven, I believe this is my favorite GHOST RIDER to date (not counting MARVEL SPOTLIGHT).

Inferno is a great new villain, but I have the feeling that he'll be leaving before long.

I have noticed that there've been a lot of comparisons between Ghost Rider and the Human Torch. Tony even mentioned the Torch in this issue's script (page twenty-six, panel 4). Well, why not have a meeting between the two? It would surely answer any questions that some readers may have.

Oh, on page two, panels three and four, there is no flame coming out of Ghost Rider's head. You owe me a no-prize.

Ken Hart
540 Lincoln Ave.
Staten Island, N.Y. 10306

Thanks for the kind words, Ken.

A Human Torch-Ghost Rider team-up is a definite possibility. When we polled FOOM members on which characters they would like to see teamed with Johnny Storm in MARVEL TEAM-UP, that very combination ranked extremely high. Gerry Conway, are you listening?

As for GR's flameless skull, you've got us. We'll have those magnificent McPherran sisters send a no-prize your way pronto.

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Dear Marvel,

GHOST RIDER #8 was all but perfect. At first it was terrific—until I noticed something. On page 3, panel 3, the Ghost Rider said that Roxanne Simpson was his protection against Satan. (In exact words; "The choice is no longer yours, Satan. For the presence—the very thought— of someone pure in heart is as painful to *you* as your attack was to me. You've lost again—as you'll *always* lose.")

Now I know Satan can be forgetful sometimes, but this is ridiculous. On pages 16-22, Satan is in direct contact with Rocky. He was also with her on pages 31 and 32. Now why wasn't Satan in pain? I hope this is good enough for a good ol' notarized no-prize.

Jim Trefil
3570 Leonard Rd
Grants Pass, Ore. 97526

You underestimate Satan, Jim. Surely the Lord of Evil could grit his teeth and bear even the most excruciating pain if, by such endurance, he was setting up Roxanne Simpson to renounce the Ghost Rider, an action which would make it possible for him to claim the soul of the mortal he hated most.

Satan's a lot of things, but weak isn't one of them.

Dear Tony, Jim, Sal, Roy, and Stan,

The saga of Johnny Blaze is really starting to get interesting. The devil's attack on Rocky is his dirtiest and deadliest trick yet. Page fourteen was quite interesting in that it reminded one of C.S. Lewis's "Screwtape Letters." Hey! Why don't you portray Hell and your devils as they are portrayed in the aforementioned work? Maybe you could even work Screwtape, Wormwood, Slubgob, etc., into GHOST RIDER or SON OF SATAN? Maybe you could even adapt, in UNKNOWN WORLDS OF SCIENCE-FICTION perhaps, some of Lewis' other works? I would love to see stories like *The Great Divorce, Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, That Hideous Strength,* and most especially, "The Chronicles of Narnea," in comics form. And while you're at it, you might try the tales of Lewis' close friend, a guy called Tolkien, and

I digress. (Boy, do I digress!) Inferno the Fear-Monger appears to be Johnny's most dangerous foe yet (other than Satan himself, of course). It looks like another meeting with Daimon Hellstrom is coming up. I can hardly wait! By the way, how come Johnny Blaze always wears his cycle outfit? This is...ical. It's obvious that this is supposed to suffice as a superhero costume, but Johnny has no need to wear a costume, not considering himself a crimefighter. You fell into this same problem—a lack of logic—with your Doc Savage, Frankenstein, Dracula, Thor, and Shang-Chi characters, *none* of whom have any need to wear the same clothing issue after issue. Let's have some variety in dress or else an explanation of their one-suit appearance.

Bring back Doug Moench and Mike Ploog.

PMM Neal Meyer
Beckleton, Wash 99322

But they never went anywhere, Neal. Mike Ploog is drawing his little heart out on PLANET OF THE APES and Doug Moench is currently scripting about a dozen series for us. Besides, we kind of enjoy the fast-moving action Tony Isabella and Jim Mooney have been bringing to the book. Judging from the mail, that's the reaction of Marveldom in The Altogether, too.

Sorry we didn't get to the Johnny Blaze-Daimon Hellstrom encounter you were expecting. The mention of the Son of Satan was a logical thought on Johnny's part, but that didn't mean Inferno was going to give him a chance to contact our resident exorcist superhero. And, quite frankly, with Daimon in St. Louis and Johnny on the West Coast, there are no immediate plans for a team-up. Still, if enough of you want one...

You'll see Johnny in some street clothes and such before too much longer, but that leather outfit he wears is practical and also, more importantly, makes for instant identification—something that's pretty vital to any character.

LAST MINUTE DEPT.: The following is a reasonably accurate account of a discussion which took place in the editorial offices of Marvel just before we sent this issue to the printers.

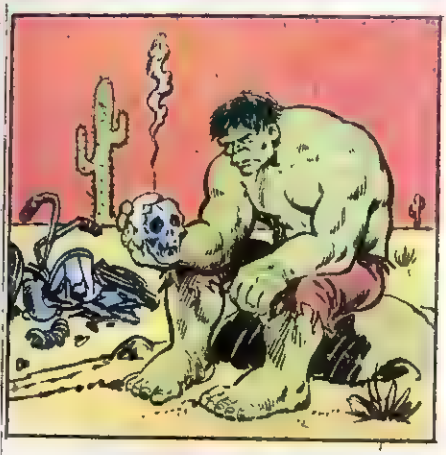
Tony Isabella: Hey, Len, did you get a chance to read that Ghost Rider-Hulk team-up that just came in?

Len Wein: No, I'm looking forward to it. How did the Ghost Rider manage to escape the Hulk?

Tony Isabella: Escape him? He beat him!

Len Wein: Huh? But the Hulk is the most powerful...

And so it went. Since we believe in keeping our editor somewhat happy, we want to explain that the Ghost Rider is really far less powerful than the Hulk. In fact, if they ever battled power-against-power, the result would be something like this:



Okay, Len, are you satisfied?
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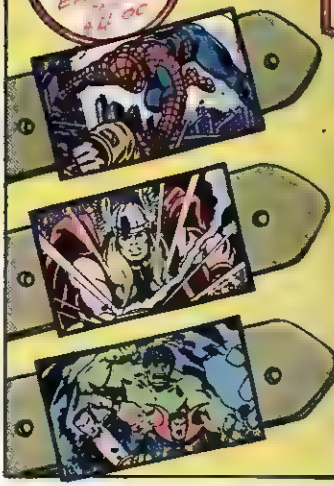

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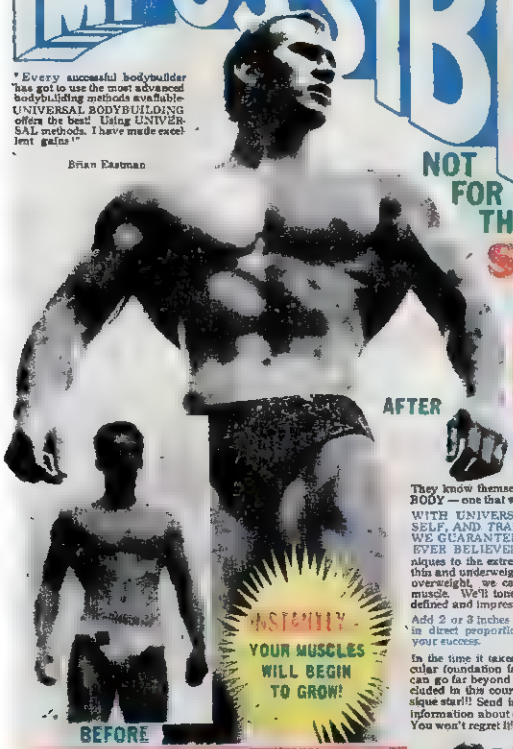

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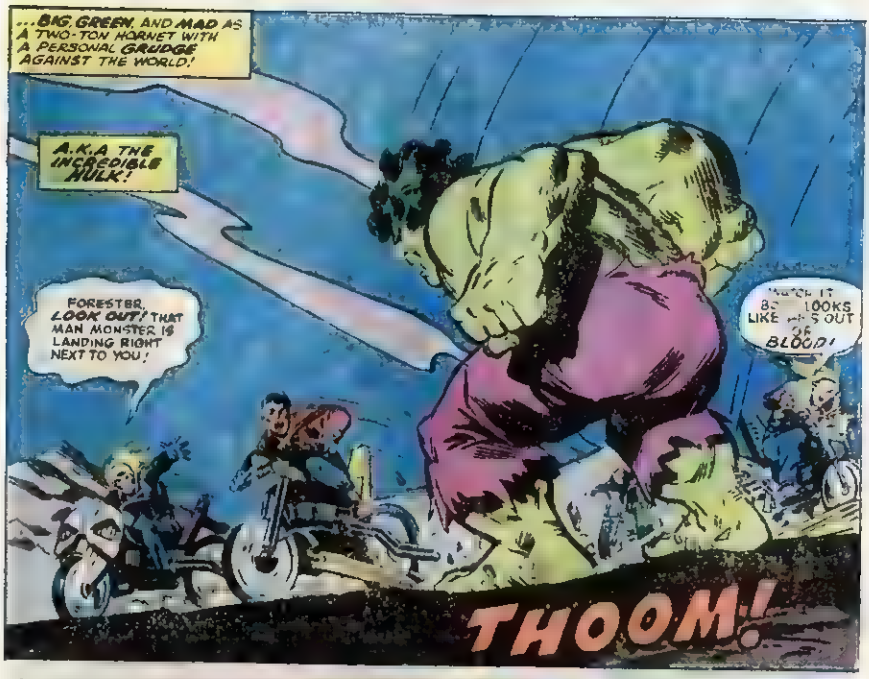
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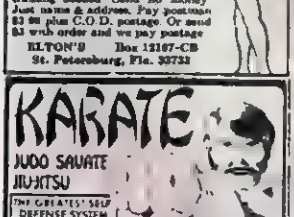

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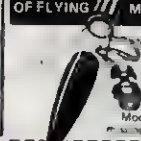

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DOUGLAS FORESTER GETS HIS RANSOM FOR LIVING!
HULK LET PUNY MAN GET AWAY. HULK WOULD RATHER SMASH SKULL-FACE HIMSELF!
BEING ALIVE.
CONVENIENT... I'D LIKE TO LURE YOU AWAY FROM THE OTHERS
GET THEE BACK, HULK! THESE MORTALS ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF HADES ITSELF!
SKRROOOOM
ARRGGHAK!
THWOO! SKULL-FACE THROWS SAND IN HULK'S EYES... HULK CAN'T SEE!
YEAH? WELL JUST STAY THAT WAY FOR HALF A SEC, LITTLE DOGGIE!
FEEL THE TOUCH OF HELLFIRE, HULK... AND THEN LEAVE THIS PLACE OR PERISH!
SOMETHING TELLS ME HE'S NOT PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THIS GHOST STUFF
SISSS!
ALL I'M DOING IS MAKING HIM MAD AS PARDON THE EXCESS ON BLAZES!!
YOU TRY TO BURN HULK LIKE BEFORE! FLAME DOESN'T HURT HULK AS MUCH THIS TIME!
MAYBE BECAUSE HULK IS MAD! AND WHEN HULK GETS MAD.
CRUNTCH!
HULK IS STRONGER THAN ANYBODY!

IN GIANT SIZE D. PENDERS [illegible] AND THE SUB-MARINER [illegible] POLICING

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TRY TO CATCH THIS, SKULL-FACE! HULK WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!
OH-OH! LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT K'D GREEN MEANT BY "BEFORE" LATER
UNLESS I WANT TO GET MYSELF BLASTED INTO THE NEXT COUNTY AND THEN SOME!
FWOOSH!
FOOM!
MY BLAST WASN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO MORE THAN BREAK UP THAT BOULDER INTO SMALLER...
THUD!
UNGH!
COME ON LADY! WE'VE GOT TO REACH THAT BIG GREEN MEAN MACHINE BEFORE HE FOGS A-ZE INTO LUBRICATING OIL!
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, MISTER!
NAH! HULK HAS KNOCKED SKULL-FACE OFF TOY! NOW SKULL-FACE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HULK!
WHA--? IT'S THE GOD COUPLE!
BUT THEY CAN'T BATTLE THE HULK!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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ANOTHER ASSORTMENT OF ACTION-PACKED AD-LIBS AND ASTONISHING ADDENDUMS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Okay, frantic ones, drop what you're doing and stand up and take a bow! It's time to congratulate each and every one of you on your taste, judgment, and dazzling discretion! Not only have you made Marvel Comics the largest, best-loved, and best-selling comic-book company on earth, but you've also made the Mighty Marvel Calendar for '75 the biggest sales sensation of the year — matched only by the fact that your matchless enthusiasm has made ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS a nation-wide bestseller! I can't count how many times both the calendar and the Origins have had to go back to press for additional printings to keep up with the demand! And now, the biggest news of all! The editors at Simon & Shuster are so excited about the sales of the book and the calendar that they've just ordered a new Marvel Calendar for '76 — and they've commissioned me to write a second book about Marvel's Origins — in fact, it looks as though they intend to create an entire Origins series! Incidentally, those of you who've already acquired a calendar or Origins book, don't dare lose them or lend them carelessly. You know how comic-books increase in value over the years — well, just imagine the value of *these* items once they're out of print! Of course, you don't have to go as far as one Bullpenner I know — he tossed all his money out of his bank vault and is replacing it with Origin books and calendars! Now *there's* a real believer!

Just one last note before I sign off. Didja hear about Ridgefield Park, N.J., Volunteer Ambulance Corps? It's a life-saving service, on call 24 hours a day — and a member of our blushin' Bullpen, one of the five females who were admitted this year, reports that Corps Captain Tim La Tour (who's also a Ridgefield Park policeman), has been spotted wearing a "Make Mine Marvel" button proudly on his uniform! And we've heard of various other uniformed stalwarts around the country who've been seen with Marvel buttons! How about telling us of any you've seen — we'll make up a list and put it in the Mighty Marvel Time Capsule, to confound the archeologists of the future! But, till then, remember — it's time to take a turtle to tea!

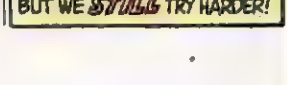
Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Looks like just about the hottest thing in town is still our mighty MARVEL VALUE STAMPS! Seems your batty Bullpen is constantly being deluged with letters wondering just what sort'a goodies you can get by being the proud possessor of a completely-filled Stamp Book. Well, just catch *this*, Faithful One — a completed MVS book will entitle you to a whoopin' *ten percent discount* on any of the matchless merchandise now being offered to you by your big-hearted House of Ideas. Just send your completed stamp book, along with a large sized, stamped, self-addressed envelope, to MERCHANDISING, c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, *9th Floor, 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022*, and your MVS book will be winging its way back to you, complete with dazzling discount coupon, faster than you can say "Quicksilver"! Of course, if you're just itching to get your hands on our marvelous merchandise *now*, just clip the coupon on this issue's merchandise page, and send your order along with your completed Stamp Book. We'll give you your first ten percent discount *immediately* — just because we love ya. We'll also send you *another* discount coupon for your next order, and we'll keep sending coupons as long as you keep sending orders. In other words, all holders of completed MARVEL VALUE STAMP books are eligible for a *perpetual* ten percent discount — besides having your name inscribed on our great, golden Honor Roll here in the hallowed halls of Marvel. And if you haven't completed *your* Stamp Book yet, don't fret, Effendi. We're gonna keep printing our MVStamps in our litlin' letters pages till each and every trusty True Believer has a chance to join the club. (Of course, if you never even *heard* of our much vaunted VALUE STAMPS till you read this blazing Bulletin — and if you haven't, you *must* have been livin' in Lower Slobbovia — you can still lay your mitts on a sparkling Stamp Book by sending us a paltry *fifty cents.)* Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Mind-bending Bargains?

ITEM! Meticulous MICHELE WOLF-MAN, the only Bullpenner crazy enough — (Opps, we didn't mean to plug her hard-working husband's merely hysterical humor mag. It just slipped out somehow.) — to attempt the mammoth task of opening and reading *all* of the lilting letters, awesome orders, and nifty notes that seem to find their way to the little log cabin here on Madison Avenue, nearly collapsed from exhaustion the other day after making an all-out effort to clear away the enormous backlog of mail which was piling up in every available nook and cranny of our already undersized offices. It appears that some of our peerless pen-pals have been addressing their mighty missives merely to MARVEL COMICS GROUP and not to the specific mag for which the letter was intended — which means that these missives must sit, feeling lonely and unloved, until all the *properly addressed* mail has been attended to. And what, you may ask, pen at the ready to scribble off a timely tome to your favorite titanic title, is *properly addressed* mail? So long as it gets where it's going, isn't it *properly addressed*, you quite rightly inquire. Nay, we respond — a thousand times nay! Even though the Meticulous One pursues her appointed task for as long as she has strength in her fast-moving fingers, she must read the notes addressed to an individual book or department *first*. Any mail addressed solely to "MARVEL COMICS GROUP" is forced to languish alone until MICHELE can find a loophole in her ever-burgeoning workload to attend to it properly. So get on the ball, Tigers. Please, for your sake and ours, follow these three guidelines: First, try to keep your cogent comments down to one type-written page, the better and faster for us to read them. Second, address your dazzling discourses to the mag for which they are intended, be it GREENSKIN'S GRABBAG or THE HYBORIAN PAGE. Third, if you wish a reply to your letter, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope to help us get it to you, as quickly as inhumanly possible. With any luck, between you, us, and the ever-peerless Postal Service, the wheels of progress will keep rolling smoothly along. (And we'll believe *that* the day we *see* it.)

ITEM! Before we sign off, we've got just enough room to remind you that our fabulous fan club FOOM is *still* producing the flat-out finest fan magazine of this or any other comics company! Now in its thundrous third year, FOOM has just featured the Colossal CAPTAIN AMERICA in a plethora of art and articles sure to thrill any dyed-in-the-wool Marvelite! And next issue, because you *demanded* it, the SILVER SURFER flies again! That's right — the results of FOOM'S incredible Irving Awards are in, and we have listened! So don't hesitate, Pilgrim! A mere *two dollars* brings you four fun-filled issues of the only fan magazine that can truthfully state that it's produced *by* the best of Marveldom *for* the best of Marveldom! And what more could any Faithful Frontfacer ask for?



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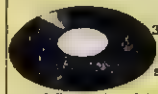

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IF WE MAY HAZARD AN OBSERVATION THEY CERTAINLY INTEND TO TRY!
TERRY! WATCH OUT FOR THAT SWINGING RIGHT HAND OF HIS! IT COULD KILL YOU!
HULK WAS GOING TO SMASH JUST SKULL-FACE BUT NOW HULK'LL SMASH ALL OF YOU
I'M DOING OKAY, NORA, BUT DON'T RIDE TOO CLOSE TO HIM! HIS RADIATOR IS HEATING UP, BUT FAST!
OKAY JEMMY WHILE OUR STUNT-RIDING FRIENDS ARE DISTRACTING THE HULK LET'S GET BLAZE OUT OF HERE!
NO! GET BACK! THE HULK IS TOO POWERFUL FOR ORDINARY HUMANS TO FIGHT!
WHAT ARE YOU-- SOME KINDA SNOB? SHUT UP AND LET US SAVE YOU--
--'CAUSE THOSE GHOST TRICKS OF YOURS ARE THE ONLY CHANCE WE'VE GOT OF BRAINING THE HULK!
WELL, I'LL BE A... FORESTER LOOKS LIKE HE'S ACTUALLY ENJOYING THIS!
THE COURAGE OF THESE PEOPLE IS REALLY MIND-BLOWING.
WHENEVER I USED MY POWERS BEFORE, IT WAS IN MY OWN INTERESTS.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M USING THEM FOR SOMEBODY ELSE'S BENEFIT AND YOU KNOW--
--IT FEELS GOOD!

THE MIGHTY THOR ... HAND ... LOKI ... ON SALE NOW

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I COULD BLAST THE HULK ALL NIGHT. IT WOULD ONLY MAKE HIM ANGRIER.
FWOOSH
I'VE GOT TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE!
IT'S A GAMBLE, BUT IT'S ALL I'VE GOT!
I'VE GOT TO COMPLETELY SURROUND HIM WITH MY FLAME-BLASTS--BURN UP ALL THE OXYGEN IN THE AIR AROUND HIM!
AND THEN PRAY!
MARVEL HISTORY: THE HULK HAS THE STRONGEST MORTAL LUNGS ON EARTH.
SKULL-FACE HIDING OUTSIDE FLAMES! HULK WILL FIND HIM! HULK WILL...
HOWEVER...
THOSE LUNGS DO HIM ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD IF HE'S GOT NOTHING TO INHALE. IN SHORT...
HULK CAN'T BREATHE!
IT IS A FAR LESS NOBLE DEFEAT THAN THE TORMENTED BEHEMOTH DESERVES. YET IT IS A NECESSARY DEFEAT.
WHUMP!
FOR WHEN THE HULK NEXT WAKES...
...HIS MIND WILL BE FREE OF THE SENSELESS HATE INFERNO HAD AWAKENED IN IT.
YOU DID IT! YOU BEAT THE HULK!
"NO," REPLIES THE GHOST RIDER.
"WE BEAT HIM."

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HEY, THIS IS JUST LIKE OLD TIMES! RIDING SIDE-BY-SIDE...PERFORMING STUNTS TOGETHER...
GET YOUR PAWS OFF ME, MISTER! IN CASE YOU FORGOT, WE'RE STILL DIVORCED!
NO, WE'RE NOT. I MEANT TO TELL YOU, BUT IT KEPT SLIPPING MY MIND. YOU SEE...
..THAT'S NOT MY SIGNATURE ON THE FINAL PAPERS. MY KID BROTHER SIGNED IT FOR ME. THE DIVORCE ISN'T LEGAL!
YOU SON OF A... MMMMM.
I DISLIKE INTERRUPTING YOUR CELEBRATION, MY FRIENDS, BUT I SUGGEST WE LEAVE THIS AREA...
...BEFORE THE HULK WAKES UP.
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GUYS GOT HERE. I'VE ALREADY COLLECTED THE PRIZE MONEY. YOU SURPRISED ME, BLAZE.
I FIGURED YOU FOR A PRO. DIDN'T THINK YOU'D SIDE WITH A BUNCH OF LOSERS WHEN THERE WAS HEAVY BREAD AT STAKE.
LOSERS? YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG, FELLA.
TAKE A LOOK. THERE ISN'T A LOSER IN THE PACK.
THIS STORY IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF BILL FINGER, GIANT MOTORCYCLE AND ALL.
NEXT ISSUE:
THE UNCANNY RETURN OF THE MOST SENSATIONAL SUPERHERO OF WORLD WAR I!
The PHANTOM EAGLE
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Never finished high school?

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